THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Six posts of Joint Director (OL) are lying vacant from different dates in different Ministries/Departments.

(b) and (c) Promotion to the posts of Joint Director (OL) is made on the recommendation of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) convened by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The proposal for holding DPC meeting was sent to UPSC on 25.5.2004, and regular reminders are being sent to UPSC in this regard. However, keeping in view the urgency, orders for filling up these six posts of Joint Director (OL) on *ad-hoc* basis have been issued *vide* orders dated 4.3.2005 and 18.3.2005.

Proposal submitted by Maharashtra Government to APEDA

2330. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal to APEDA regarding accredition of the State seeds certification agency for organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) APED Aexamined the application submitted by the Government of Maharashtra for considering accreditation of Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency as an inspection and certification agency under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). Certain non-conformities found in the application were conveyed to the State Government, which has now submitted a revised application for evaluation by APEDA.

Export of Indian expertise in construction sector

2331. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up any schemes to export Indian expertise in construction sector to Africa and Latin America;

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy to create export potential for the construction sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that a survey has been done by Government on creating a potential for exports in the construction sector;

(d) the details of the findings of this survey done by the Government; and

(e) the steps proposed to encourage exports in the construction sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign Trade Policy, contains various schemes and policies of Government of India for promoting exports of all the commodities and services worldwide Including in African and Latin American countries by creating level playing field for Indian exporters *vis-a-vis* their International competitors. Besides, Government of India has launched Focus LAC (Latin American & Caribbean countries) and Focus Africa programmes to encourage exports, including the construction sector, to these regions. Under these programmes financial assistance is given to exporters for undertaking export promotion activities as per the Market Development Assistance (MDA) guidelines. Government of India has also extended Lines of Credit (LOCs) for promoting exports, including construction, to the countries of these regions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Various export promotion schemes of the Government, including the schemes of Market Access Initiative (MAI) and MDA, are updated from time to time to take care of the genuine concerns of the stakeholders.

Export of fruits and fruit jelly

2332. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of fruits and fruit jelly during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the huge potential for exporting grapes and mango pulp in some pockets of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the steps taken to provide technical and financial assistance to fruit growers to boost export of fruits and fruit pulp?